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TAGS: AORG, UPU

SUBJECT: UPU DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 6261

1. MISSION OFFICER PROHME CALLED ON UPU DG SOBHI (EGYPT) AND VICE DG SCOTT (UK) AT BERN ON JAN 13 TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE CLOSE OF LAUSANNE CONGRESS IN JULY 1974. REF-TEL TOPICS SERVED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

2. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS REVIEWED DURING 90 MINUTE INTERVIEW:

A. CREATION OF UPU STATISTICAL SERVICE: SOBHI AND SCOTT NOTED THAT LAUSANNE CONGRESS HAD ORDERED INTERNATIONAL BUREAU (IB) TO CREATE A NEW STATISTICAL SERVICE UNIT BUT DID NOT APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO DO SO. IB NEVERTHELESS PLANS TO ESTABLISH UNIT AND THEN DETERMINE IF THEIR PRESENT COMPUTER FACILITIES AT ITU-GENEVA OR THEIR OWN MINI-COMPUTER WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ADDED WORK INVOLVED OR WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE TO CALL ON SWISS GOVERNMENT OR

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ICC GENEVA FOR ADDITIONAL COMPUTER TIME.

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: DG SENT MCCLURE (US) TO CURRENT SESSION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN NEW YORK TO SEEK MORE OVERHEAD FUNDS FOR NEXT THREE YEAR PERIOD, 1975-1977, FOR UPU ADMINISTERED UNDP PROJECTS. SCOTT STRESSED THAT STANDARD UNDP 13 PCT. OVERHEAD ALLOCATION DOES NOT COVER CURRENT UPU OVERHEAD COSTS FOR ADMINISTERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.

DG SOBHI SAID THAT ONE COUNTRY, WHICH HE DID NOT NAME, HAD OFFERED UPU THE USE OF NATIONAL EXPERTS, AT THAT COUNTRY'S EXPENSE, FOR UPU TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. UPU WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER AND WOULD LIKE US SUPPORT FOR THIS. MISSION OFFICER SAID THAT US DID NOT OPPOSE UN ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT DID OBJECT TO UN UTILIZING REGULAR BUDGET FUNDS FOR THIS ASSISTANCE. MISSION OFFICER SAID HE WOULD REFER DG'S QUERY TO DEPT FOR COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LANGUAGE COST ALLOTMENT PROGRAM: SOBHI AND SCOTT SAID THAT THE UPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS SPRING SESSION IN 1976 WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT THE EXACT SYSTEM FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LAUSANNE CONGRESS DECISION TO BILL MEMBER STATE USERS FOR ACTUAL COSTS OF TRANSLATION INTO FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC AND SPANISH. THE SYSTEM IS SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT ON JAN. 1, 1977. DG SAID NEW SYSTEM HAD TAKEN FOUR FULL DAYS OF DEBATE AT LAUSANNE TO WORK OUT AND HE EXPECTED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE EQUAL DIFFICULTIES TO WORK OUT THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS. SCOTT SAID IT WAS SIMPLE TO EXPLAIN THE OVERALL PLAN FOR ASSESSMENTS FOR LANGUAGE SERVICES RENDERED, BUT DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS.

D. NEW CONTRIBUTORY ASSESSMENTS: GD, VICE DG STRESSED THAT AS NOT ALL MEMBER STATES--INCLUDING THE USG--HAD SENT IN THEIR REPLIES REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTORY CATEGORIES THEY INTENDED TO TAKE FOR CY 1975 UPU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS NOT YET ABLE TO PUBLISH A REPORT ON THE CURRENT CONTRIBUTORY CATEGORIES OF MEMBERS. DG, VICE DG ESPECIALLY UNHAPPY USG HAD NOT YET REPLIED FORMALLY IN VIEW OF FACT US DEL HAD AGREED AT LAUSANNE CONGRESS TO ACCEPT 50 UNITS IN CATEGORY I UNDER NEW PROGRAM. SCOTT PROMISED TO PROVIDE MISSION OFFICER WITH COPY OF UPU REPORT ON CONTRIBUTORY ASSESSMENTS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. (SEE REFTEL, PARA 2,E.)

E. BUDGET CEILINGS: WHEN MISSION OFFICER NOTED THAT LAUSANNE CONGRESS HAD STIPULATED THAT 1976 BUDGET MIGHT NOT EXCEED THAT OF 1975 BY MORE THAN 8 PCT., VICE DG SCOTT REPLIED THAT TOKYO FORMULA STILL OPERATED FOR THE 1975 BUDGET, BUT THAT NEW LAUSANNE FORMULA TOOK EFFECT FOR JAN 1, 1976. HE SAID THAT UNDER LATTER FORMULA 1977 BUDGET WOULD NOT EXCEED THAT OF 1976 BY MORE THAN 5 PCT. HE NOTED THAT THE 1975 BUDGET WAS STILL WORKED OUT IN GOLD FRANCS BUT THAT THE NEW LAUSANNE SYSTEM STIPULATES USE OF SWISS FRANCS. BOTH SOBHI AND SCOTT NOTED THAT THE UNGA DECISION TO RAISE UN SALARIES 6 PCT. WOULD PROVE A HEAVY BURDEN IN IMPLEMENTING THE APPROVED 1975 UPU BUDGET.

F. PERSONNEL: SCOTT REPORTED THAT AS OF JAN 1, 1975, UPU'S APPROVED POST COMPLEMENT WAS FOR 124 POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH ONLY 121 WERE FILLED. ROUGHLY SPEAKING THE STAFF IS DIVIDED INTO HALF PROFESSIONAL AND HALF GENERAL SERVICE. DG HAS NO CURRENT PLANS FOR PERSONNEL INCREASES, OTHER THAN FOR CREATION OF THE NEW STATISTICAL SERVICES UNIT, NOR ANY IMPORTANT SHIFTS IN PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS. THE 1975 PERSONNEL LIST OF THE UNION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE THRID WEEK OF JANUARY, SCOTT REPORTED. COPY WILL BE SENT DEPT ON RECEIPT BY MISSION GENEVA.

G. DOCUMENTS FOR 1975 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: THESE, INCLUDING 1976 BUDGET, WILL BE READY BY END OF MARCH, SCOTT SAID.

H. OBSERVERS AT EC MEETINGS: ALTHOUGH US, FRANCE AND USSR ARE NOW OFF UPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEARS, EACH WILL HAVE RIGHT TO SEND OBSERVERS TO EC MEETINGS AND TO SPEAK WITHOUT VOTE AT THESE MEETINGS.

I. ECOSOC STUDY: MISSION OFFICER RECOMMENDED TO DG, VICE DG THAT UPU'S REPORT TO ECOSOC THIS YEAR BE MORE DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE THAN USUAL TO FACILITATE ECOSOC IN-DEPTH STUDY OF UPU, SCHEDULED TO BE MADE IN 1975. OFFICER NOTED THAT US REPS HAD OBJECTED TO TIMING OF ECOSOC'S IN-DEPTH STUDIES, POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE NOT PROPERLY GEARED TO GENERAL CONFERENCES (OR CONGRESSES) OF SPECIALIZED AGENICES AND CITING CASES OF BOTH ITU AND UPU AS EX-AMPLES OF BAD TIMING, BOTH STUDIES BEING PREPARED AND SUBMITTED ONE YEAR SUBSEQUENT TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE AND CONGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED.

IT IS ASSUMED THAT ECOSOC STUDIES WILL RESULT IN
RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ONLY GENERAL CONFERENCES CAN
IMPLEMENT.

J. POLITICS IN THE UPU: DG SOBHI VOLUNTEERED
THE OPINION THAT THE UPU, EVEN AT ITS LAUSANNE CEN-
TENNIAL CONGRESS, WAS LESS POLITICAL AND MORE PROGRAM-
ORIENTED THAT MOST UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. MISSION
OFFICER DEMURRED CITING EXAMPLES OF POLITICS AT
LAUSANNE CONGRESS AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION THAT
THESE CONGRESSES WERE CONVENED ONLY EVERY FOUR TO
FIVE YEARS. DG HELD TO HIS POSITION.

3. MISSION OFFICER PLANS TO RETURN TO BERN IN LATE
MARCH/EARLY APRIL, TO CONSULT WITH DG, VICE DG RE
SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA, PROSPECTS, PROBLEMS.
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